

# Hawaii MARINE

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## 2005 to be ‘pivotal’ for Iraq

**Donna Miles**  
*American Forces Press Service*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The year 2005 will prove to be “very pivotal” in Iraq as the country transitions to a free, representative government with its own police and military forces providing security, according to the chief of staff for Multinational Force Iraq.

Marine Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Weber told the American Forces Press Service the year already has begun with “a capstone event” — Iraq’s successful Jan. 30 national elections.

The elections, he said, gave the coalition here much-needed verification that their service in Iraq hasn’t been in vain. “The coalition needed that, to see that all our efforts, all our

suffering, all our sacrifices made by the coalition forces, the U.S. forces, and all those people contributing over here was worth something,” he said.

The next capstone event, Weber said, will be the seating of Iraq’s new government and the “passing of the baton in the counterinsurgency fight from the coalition forces to the Iraqi security forces.”

The Iraqis’ and coalition’s vision for Iraq’s security forces “is becoming a reality,” he said, as they grow in numbers and capabilities so they are able “to take over this counterinsurgency fight and provide for the security of their own people.”

Iraq’s security forces “are earning their spurs,” demonstrating tenacity as they face insurgents and gaining

confidence as they do so, Weber said at the Multinational Force Iraq’s Camp Victory headquarters.

“You just drive up and down Route Irish between here and the embassy and you can see them in uniform. They are squared away, they have their gear, they are very professional in what they are doing,” he said. “And as that capacity builds and spreads, the people are going to gain confidence in their own security forces.”

During the months ahead, the coalition will focus increasingly on “partnering, mentoring, teaching and building up the capability of these forces” so they have the experience their new roles require.

While acknowledging that the readiness of the Iraqi security forces

to take on the mission is the coalition’s “ticket out of here,” Weber stressed that it’s important not to make the transition too quickly.

“We have a lot of time and money and sweat and blood and tears invested over here,” he said. “And ... as we work with the Iraqis and the government and the security forces, we need to be cautious about taking our hand off the bicycle seat way too soon.”

As the Iraqis move forward, and particularly as they form their new government, Weber said it’s important to keep in mind how quickly they’re progressing. After gaining independence, the United States didn’t get a constitution until 11 years later, he pointed out.

In contrast, he said, the Iraqis are

striving to “have two or three elections, seat a government, write a constitution, have a referendum, vote on it, then have another election” — all within a two-year timeframe, he said.

“We as Americans want to come in here and do things very quickly and fix things and apply money and resources to it,” he said. “We want to fix it and leave, and it’s very difficult to do that.”

Weber said confidence in Iraq’s potential as a free, democratic and economically strong country appears to be growing as progress continues — in the government, the security forces and the reconstruction programs under way.

“With all that accomplished here,” he said. “I’m confidently optimistic about Iraq’s future.”

## Headquarters Battery, 1/12 picks up duty

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Press Chief*

Recently the Marines of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, were given the opportunity to do what Marines do best — adapt and overcome.

One of the duties of a Marine Corps cannoneer is to perform firing salutes during ceremonious events. When the time came for these events to be put on, the Marines realized they did not have enough cannonneers on the island to perform the salutes, therefore, they looked to another source for personnel.

That is how several Marines from Headquarters Company, 1/12, were trained in the art of firing an M101-A1 105mm light howitzer.

“Traditionally the 0811s [cannonneers] are the ones who perform the salutes,” explained Master Sgt. Manuel A. Colo’n, battalion field artillery chief, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. “We knew we didn’t have enough on island so we asked Headquarters Battery if they could help us out. Before long, we had the Marines training for upcoming events.”

The Marines chosen to take on the responsibility of learning the job of cannoneer came from various different military occupational specialties. They ranged from nuclear biological and chemical defense specialists to field radio operators. In all, Marines from nine different MOSs filled the billet for the 0811s.

“We began training by familiarizing the Marines with the new equipment,” said Staff Sgt. Marcus A. Norman, cannoneer, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. “I never had any problems teaching them. They all caught on really quick.”

The Marines began training in preparation solely for the recent Pacific Command change of command, but have since been asked to continue training for additional upcoming events.

“We train every working day for one hour each day,” explained Norman. “These Marines are very motivated to be able to experience what it is like to be in a different MOS. They get to see what their fellow Marines do, first hand.”

When Headquarters Battery was asked to provide Marines for the events, the response was almost immediate — even though the battery is currently preparing for upcoming deployments.

“With a lot of the units on base deployed, we have been asked to help out in a number of different ways,” said Capt. Andrew A. Merz, officer-in-charge, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. “I was surprised at first, because I have never seen a Headquarters Battery perform the salutes. But I knew the Marines could handle it, and that it would be a good experience for them. Marines are very versatile and this is just another example of how.”

Some of the cannonneers are expected to return in the next couple of weeks, but until then, the Marines stepping in and filling the job are more than happy to help out.

“It is nice to see how the battery works from a different

### Howzit?

Cpl. Trevor M. Carlee

Marines with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, align the coordinates on their howitzer at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan, March 15, during the battery's rehearsal of standard operating procedure for providing indirect artillery support for infantry units. Sixty-six Marines with the Hawaii-based battery participated in the three-day exercise that helped prepare them for their future training at the central training area, which will, in turn, prepare them for their deployment to Cobra Gold '05. "Ultimately, we're preparing for combat," said Gunnery Sgt. Kevin T. Bowman, the battery gunnery sergeant. "That's what it boils down to."

## 2/3 trains in real-world scenes

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif.** — Wrecked cars in the road, gutted houses, the smell of fire and smoke in the air, men with full beards wearing perahan tunban (a knee-length shirt worn over trousers) — all of this and more complete the training at March Air Reserve Base.

The Marine Corps, in an effort to make training as realistic as possible, is using the deserted housing areas of MARB to train units for real-world operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Marines who have deployed to these regions are used as instructors and role-playing aggressors to increase the awareness of the Marines who have not yet deployed. The Marine Corps even goes as far as allowing the aggressors to grow full beards.

“Training at MARB teaches the Marines how to deal with an urban environment; it’s realistic and designed for what they will really face,” said Cpl. Jeffrey W. Hosterman, infantryman, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, who serves as an aggressor at MARB.

Units that come through MARB can expect an immersion into a different world — one where prayer is blasted over loudspeakers three times a day, and where civilians are allowed to carry

See *REAL*, A-8

## CAX known as the ‘ultimate range’

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Range 400 — ask anyone who has been to the Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, and conducted a live fire on that range and they will likely tell you that it is unforgettable. Just the name sends a jolt down many an infantrymen’s spine from remembered experiences. The explosions from the breach, covering fire from ‘machine gun hill,’ the exhausting run over broken terrain in full gear to assault the objective, deafening blasts from mortars and rockets, the smell of gunpowder, smoke and dust everywhere, all this combines to make this range as close to combat as can be simulated.

“Range 400 is a company attack that employs a large number of assets. Machine guns, overhead fire, mortars, clearing bunkers and conducting counterattacks are all part of this range. The Marine Corps is notorious for using ‘combined arms’ and

Marines from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, conduct a live-fire at Range 400, MCB Twentynine Palms. Marines pause to assess the situation and then decide the best course of action for cover, fire and movement.

See *RANGE*, A-6

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines from Headquarters Company, 1/12, fire off a M101-A1 105mm light howitzer during the firing salutes portion of the Iwo Jima Memorial Ceremony, March 16, at the Pacific War Memorial.



# News Briefs

### Easter Sunrise Service

To celebrate Easter Sunday, members of the Base Chapel are holding a Protestant Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. at the Rifle Range, Sunday. All base residents, friends and family are invited to the event.

### State Alert to Sound Friday

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be sounded Friday at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

### Change in Commissary Operating Hours for April 5

The Commissary will be opened at noon on April 5, instead of the usual opening time of 9:30 a.m. and will close as usual at 7 p.m, in order for commissary personnel to conduct their annual formal inventory.

### Lane Closure at Mokapu and Lawrence Roads

There will be a lane closure at the intersection of Mokapu Road and Lawrence Road until April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in order to complete a trenching project. Lane closure will affect only one lane in either or both directions. Cones will be set up to mark the lane being closed, with flag-men positioned at each end to direct traffic.

### Construction on Mokapu Road

KD Construction, Inc. will be performing waterline installation on Mokapu Road until April 29 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. This work will be in addition to the utilities installation on Mokapu Road; however, utilities installation and waterline installation will not be performed concurrently. Traffic will be directed around the work area.

### HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m.

the Camp Smith site will be set up in Lot 11 near the PMO building. The site is open every other Wednesday, from 12 to 5 p.m.

Call 257-4300 for more information.

### Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the "Letters to the Editor" section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

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### Read the Hawaii Marine Online

To access the *Hawaii Marine* online, log on to www.mcbh.usmc.mil and click on the "*Hawaii Marine* Newspaper on-line" link. The current newspaper, as well as past issues, are available.

### Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

### Correction

On page B-3 of the March 18 issue of the *Hawaii Marine*, Connie Cruz's name was misspelled in the outline for the "For services rendered" photo as Connie Cuse.

# From the ground up



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

A KD Construction Inc. worker shovels wet cement as another gets ready to smooth it out, March 18, at the site of the new Base Chapel located beside the Base Post Office on Mokapu Road. Construction of the chapel is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

# General explains new sex-assault policy

**Terri Lukach**

American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — The new guidelines for reporting incidents of sexual assault within the military create, for the first time, a department-wide standard that will both provide victims with the support they need after an incident occurs, and help commanders get to root cause of the problem, the head of the Pentagon joint task force for sexual assault prevention and response said Tuesday.

In an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain expanded on the new policy, announced March 18.

Before, McClain said, there were "pockets of excellence" but no overarching policy for contending with sexual abuse. The new policy "provides a framework for how the department will respond," she said. The new guidelines are expected to take effect in mid-June.

"Sexual abuse crimes create a sense of powerless in the victim, a loss of control," McClain said, "and the official investigative

process can be overwhelming." It is primarily this sense of being overwhelmed and powerless that causes victims to forego reporting an incident of sexual abuse, the general added.

The new policy allows the victim to report the incident and receive medical treatment, care and counseling while at the same time, giving the victim more time and control over the release and management of personal information. In short, it allows the victim "to come forward without initiating the reporting process," she said.

McClain said the new policy would not limit commanders from addressing problems of abuse within their commands. "Quite the contrary," she said. "Now commanders will have more information about the scope and nature of the problem within their organizations. It will allow them to adjust their prevention efforts and judge the effectiveness of their training program." It also creates a universal policy, across all services, McClain said, which is particularly important in this new era of joint operations.

"It is critical that the same policy be applied across the Department of Defense,"

she said. "Otherwise, we could have different forms of confidentiality, or even different access to services, varying by location. That would not only be confusing," she said, "but also inequitable."

The message of the new policy, McClain said, is that while complete reporting and accountability is preferable, the first priority is to ensure that victims are protected, that they are treated with dignity and respect, and that they receive the medical treatment, care and support they deserve. Confidentiality does two things, McClain said: It gets victims the care and support they need, and it gives commanders information they don't currently have that allows them to get at the root cause of sexual abuse.

"Everyone in the Department of Defense has a role in prevention and response — regardless of rank, position, duty title or assignment," the general said. "That role, she added, is "to understand what behavior constitutes sexual assault, and to send a message to co-workers and friends that those behaviors are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

## The Effects of the GWOT and Militant Islam on China-U.S. Relations

— Will United States-People's Republic of China relationships warm or freeze in the next 10 years?

The lecture will begin at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the MCB Hawaii Theater, followed by a question and answer period.

Dr. Elizabeth Van Wie Davis is a professor in the College of Security Studies, Department of Regional Studies. She focuses on Chinese domestic, foreign and defense policies.

She came to the Asia-Pacific Center from Johns Hopkins University's, SAIS, Center in Nanjing, China, where she was the Fei Yi-Ming Professor of Politics from 1998 to 2000. Additionally, she taught graduate classes on U.S.-China Relations as well as international law and politics. As the Fei Yi-Ming Professor, she published both her own and other center residents' writings.

Dr. Davis's recent book publications include "Chinese Perspectives on Sino-American Relations," (2000) and "China and the Law of the Sea Convention," (1995). Her articles have appeared in numerous journals around the world, including the Asian Affairs, The Journal of East Asian Politics, World Environment Quarterly, Science & Technology International, Mediterranean Quarterly, Arab Studies Quarterly, Encyclopedia of Modern Asia and Journal of Contemporary Asia.



Dr. Elizabeth Van Wie Davis, PhD

## Marine Forces Pacific Band Schedule

### Saturday, 8 a.m.

Kainalu Little League Opener  
Ceremonial Band, Aikahi Park

### Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service  
Brass Quintet, Rifle Range

### April 1, 3 p.m.

MALS-24 Retirement Ceremony  
Ceremonial Band, Kaneohe Bay Flightline

### April 15, 10 a.m.

3rd Marines Retirement Ceremony  
Ceremonial Band, Pacific War Memorial

### April 16, 9:30 a.m.

Art in the Park  
Dixie Band, Child Development Center

The Marine Forces Pacific Band schedule of performances can be found on the Web at [www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.html](http://www.mfp.usmc.mil/mfpband/main.html).

## Hawaii MARINE

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# Weekend weather outlook

## Friday



**Day** — Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers, northwesterly winds, 6-10 mph

**Night** — Mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers through the night, winds from the north, 8-12 mph

**High** — 79  
**Low** — 67

## Saturday



**Day** — Mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers, northeasterly winds, 8-12 mph

**Night** — Mostly cloudy skies, northeasterly winds, 10-15 mph with gusts to 20 mph

**High** — 80  
**Low** — 69

## Sunday



**Day** — Mostly to partly cloudy skies, winds north, northeasterly, 10-12 mph with gusts to 16 mph

**Night** — Partly cloudy skies, winds east, northeasterly, 6-10 mph

**High** — 81  
**Low** — 69



# HARD CORE

## Convoy operations take a new emphasis with 2/3

**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER, TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** — Convoy operations have long been a weak spot in any military's armor. Convoys are often subject to attacks because they are easy targets and the enemy can just fade away. It takes little training to hit a convoy because of their limited capability to maneuver and with the use of improvised explosive devices an enemy can cause significant damage. That's why the Marine Corps makes a special effort to train Marines on how to react when traveling in a convoy.

"The biggest thing Marines need to do is rehearse. Most Marines don't realize the best way to exit a vehicle, so they're slow because they're all trying to follow one another instead of using the front as well as the back," said Sgt. Haley Gumm, motor vehicle operator, currently training with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. "A lot of combat comes to convoys so they need to be prepared."

The Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have trained in Convoy Security Operations at March Air Reserve Base and at Twentynine Palms. There, Marines continuously executed immediate-action drills in response to ambushes, improvised explosive devices and sniper fire from urban and rural terrain. After they rehearsed for days, the Marines tested their skills in a live-fire convoy course.



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

**Marines from Golf Company, 2/3, run through convoy operations at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms. Convoy operations are dangerous due to the use of enemy improvised explosive devices and the ease of which an enemy can ambush and retreat before the Marines can retaliate.**

During this exercise, a company loaded up a dozen or more vehicles and drove a 23-kilometer course that took them through a mock city and an open desert. The course included an area littered with pop-up dummies — some were friendly civilians and some were enemy soldiers.

There were also roadblocks that the Marines had to figure out how to circumvent. The roadblocks consisted of wire, debris and, in one area, a broken-down car that blocked the road. The Marines were then forced to set up security before they towed the vehicle out of the way.

"We train the Marines, as well as the commanders, on how to conduct convoy operations; they learn how to prepare themselves and the vehicles. They learn the challenges of

controlling dispersion of the convoy as well as driving at night with night vision goggles," said Maj. Joseph N. Raferty, instructor, Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group. "Little things make a big difference — like knowing which vehicles have tow capability and what kind of gear you need to carry. It's all about manipulating your assets."

Other factors the Marines have to overcome in a desert setting are scorching heat and heavy winds that cause sandstorms that will impair their vision and generally make life miserable. Almost as bad as heavy winds is having no winds at all because that causes dust clouds to be kicked up from lead vehicles making for poor visibility for the vehicles traveling behind them. Vehicles in the rear must constantly

speed up and slow down in order to keep proper distance. Not only is weather a factor, but there is the element of combat. It is because of this factor that Marines must learn to 'harden' their vehicles — using bolt-on armor and adding sandbags in order to help protect the vehicle from bullets, shrapnel and IEDs. All of these challenges make for tough, yet realistic, training that prepare Marines for what they can expect on overseas deployments.

"It's good to have exposure to working in vehicles. It continues to improve our skills and it's great because it's something new," said Capt. Peter J. Capuzzi, company commander, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "Working with convoys is always a good skill to have."

## 2/3 Marines take on Security and Stabilization Operations at March Air Reserve Base



**Story and Photos By**  
**Sgt. Robert M. Storm**  
*Combat Correspondent*

**MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif.** — Marines are trained to deal with problems quickly, cleanly and with swift violence, when necessary. However, Marines from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are learning updated tactics at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. with Security and Stabilization Operations replacing Military Operations Urban Terrain.

Marines trained in tactics such as how to cordon off and search a building, where to watch for improvised explosive devices, and generally how to fight and survive in an urban environment. SASO has many of the same tactics as MOUT but with the integration of new skills that have the ultimate goal of being peacekeepers rather than a subjugator.

"It's pretty easy stuff we learn; most of it is common sense. You just have to think

about what can kill you and pay attention to your surroundings," said Lance Cpl. William O. Paul, rifleman, Company E, 2/3. "As long as you pay attention to the instructors and apply what they say, I think you have pretty good odds to live."

While most bases in the Marine Corps have mock towns that allow for urban training, MARB is unique in the level of realism that can be portrayed. Marines train in deserted base housing areas and experience many of the same problems that would arise in a developing country. Trash and debris litter the roads and houses, and Marines are forced to build their own bases and checkpoints using whatever is available



**A Marine from 2/3 waits atop a roof with his rifle at the March Air Reserve Base. The unit is in California for Security and Stabilization Operations to prepare for deployment.**

throughout the area. Adding to the realism the Marine Corps brings in aggressors and instructors who have all deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan. They put up signs written in Arabic, dress in traditional Middle Eastern clothing, grow beards and even blast morning, afternoon, and evening prayer with bullhorns.

"They need to understand the environment that they are deploying into. The realization that anything can happen in an urban environment and the awareness that there is a difference between an all-out war and a peacekeeping mission," said Sgt. Loretto J. Mattaacosta, an infantryman serving as an instructor from Quantico, Va. "The training is tailored for each unit that comes through here. Those that go to Iraq can expect a more aggressive environment than those that go to Afghanistan. However, all the training is good for getting them into the right mindset before they get wherever they're going."

SASO training teaches Marines how to communicate peacefully with the local populace, so that they will actually help identify insurgents. This reduces the stress on the Marines and, ultimate-

ly, will help the country police itself.

"When we train the units that come through MARB, we teach them some of the actual language. That way they can communicate peacefully with the locals," said Lance Cpl. Christopher D. Kergis, an infantryman from 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, who serves as an aggressor at MARB. "Being able to communicate was a big asset. My unit would go through villages in Afghanistan and the residents would direct us to weapons caches. We went through the same village three times, and each time found a different cache."

After six days of classes and instruction on how to conduct operations in a city environment, the battalion had a 48-hour exercise to employ all the skills they had learned.

"As a whole, the exercise was exactly what the battalion needed. We used our immediate-action drills and standard operating procedures against a thinking enemy. We were able to use the experience of the instructors and role-players to make improvements that will see us through combat in Operation Enduring Freedom," said Maj. Robert R. Scott, battalion executive officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines.



**Top** — Cpl. Phillip D. Simonsen, a Quimby, Iowa native assigned to Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, comes through the smoke from a simulated mortar attack during the field exercise at March Air Reserve Base. The simulation left two 'casualties' for the Marines to evacuate.

**Above** — Pfc. Joshua A. Latner, infantryman and Conroe, Texas native assigned to Fox Company, 2/3, hand signs for the squad to come to a halt during a security patrol. Marines are taught numerous different hand signals in order for a patrol to move in silence.



**Marines from Fox Co. run for cover during a simulated mortar attack at March Air Reserve Base. Attacks from mortars, snipers and suicidal insurgents happen often throughout the eight-day exercise.**



# MALS-24 graduate takes top honors



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson  
Cpl. Veronica Polston, avionics technician, MALS-24, works on a relay inside of a receiver transmitter. Polston graduated at the top of the Corporals Course with a final grade of 96.

## Competition heats up during Corporals Course

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**  
*Combat Correspondent*

“I’ve always been really competitive, and I guess that just worked to my advantage in the course,” admitted the 21-year-old Winchester, Va. native. “I can say, though, that I couldn’t believe it when I found out that I finished at the top of my class. I was on cloud nine!”

A John Handley High School graduate, Cpl. Veronica Polston said that she has always been competitive. Now, an avionics technician for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Polston was once a high school track athlete and also ran track for one year at Towson University.

After a year of college, though, expenses began to overwhelm her. It was during that period in time that she said she spoke with her best friend who was joining the Marine Corps.

“She said it was the hardest branch, so I thought the challenge would be good for me,” said Polston. “I took the test and ended up in avionics. I went to Pensacola, Florida, for eight months before getting stationed here.”

Polston began Corporal’s Course on Feb. 4. The three-week course involved inspections, drills, physical training and other mental and physical challenges — challenges that Polston welcomed.

“There was a bit of pressure — since the last four classes had honor graduates from MALS-24,” said Polston. “There were three of us from MALS-24 in the course that I went through, so we felt that someone had to take it. I know I wanted to do really well.”

Polston said that the toughest part for her was getting through all the classes that were given. She was also attending college here and said that this factor enabled her to have good study habits.

“We would always study for tests together, in squads, so we could all do better,” explained Polston. “Plus, one of the guys I was competing with — toward the end — for the top, was in my study group. We would always ask each other how the other one did on tests, so it kept the competitiveness high.”

Cpl. Justin N. Baca, a small-computer systems specialist with 3rd Marine Regiment, was the Marine responsible for bringing the challenge to Polston.

“We actually both ended up helping each other throughout the course, because we helped each other make the effort to excel,” admitted the Barstow, Calif. native. “We set high standards for each other and set good examples.”

Baca said that they were in the upper percentile of the class, but that being there came with hard work. Both worked at their drill on weekends and put in the time and effort they needed to succeed.

“She held herself to a higher standard, and I think people underestimated her at first,” said the 22-year-old. “She earned it,” Baca said, openly, “and I wish her well.”

Polston is coming to the end of her tour on K-Bay. Come next month, she will be attending Marine Security Guard School in Quantico, Va. She said that because one of the reasons she joined Marine Corps was to have the opportunity to travel, she will now get that chance to do that. Once she completes the course in Quantico, she will once again be on her way to another assignment.

“Someone once told me to reach for the stars and get the sky,” she said. “I think that’s the best advice I’ve ever heard, and that’s what I plan on doing.”



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson  
Cpl. Veronica Polston, avionics technician, MALS-24 and Corporals Course honor graduate, works on a relay inside of a receiver transmitter.

# GQ magazine features war photos taken by Marine

**Sgt. Beth Zimmerman**  
*New York City Public Affairs*

**NEW YORK** — The April 2005 issue of GQ magazine features a scantily-clad Jessica Alba on the cover. It discusses style in a feature story on “business suits that don’t scream business.”



Sgt. Beth Zimmerman  
GQ’s project, “Life During Wartime: A Soldier’s Portfolio,” featured photographs taken by service members deployed in support of the war on terror. Sgt. Luis Agostini’s photo took up a full page.

And, on page 218, GQ features a full-page photo by Sgt. Luis R. Agostini after a night of fighting in Fallujah.

GQ’s project, “Life During Wartime: A Soldier’s Portfolio,” featured photographs taken by individual service members deployed in support of the war on terror. The magazine included the photos in its April issue, and GQ also created a photo gallery exhibit open in Manhattan from March 24 through April 17.

“Thanks to inexpensive digital cameras ... every airman, Marine, seaman was a photographer,” read the portfolio article in GQ. “They have produced a remarkable, constantly evolving portrait of war.”

“GQ decided to ask servicemen, including military photographers, for their pictures of war,” continued the article. “A deluge of images came in ... from soldiers who had recorded their experience.”

Agostini, a combat correspondent who deployed in August of last year, took more pictures than most. According to the 23-year-old sergeant, he deployed with the 1st Force Service Support Group to report on the quickly unfolding story of Marines at war. After the Corps’ offensive in Fallujah in November, Agostini heard GQ was looking for photographs.

“I submitted the photos I liked and that meant a lot to me,” said Agostini, who returned to the states in February. “Some I liked because of composition and everything, but for that particular one, it meant a lot to me because I was right there with [the Marines in the photo],” said the Haverstraw, N.Y. native. “It

conveyed everyone’s mood at the time.”

That particular photo filled an entire page in the magazine. Agostini couldn’t believe it when he opened the issue and flipped to his page.

“Wow,” he said. “I can’t even describe how it felt.”

Agostini’s photo was sandwiched by pages of other photos included in the project. According to Lauren Starke, a public relations representative for GQ, Agostini had some tough competition.

“[The GQ editor] went through more than 10,000 photos,” said Starke. “He wanted to show a mix,” she added. “Some photos are funny, some are sad,” she said. “But they show daily life [in Iraq].”

Agostini is no stranger to having his photo-

See GQ, A-7

# 4th Force RECON covers bases

**1st Sgt. Timothy C. Blake**  
*4th Force Reconnaissance Company*

From March 7 to 11, 4th Force Reconnaissance Company (Minus) coordinated a joint airborne training package that included a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster and the combined forces of the Marines from 4th Force RECON Co. detachment in Reno, Nev., and MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Coordination efforts began nearly eight months ago and required the cooperation of personnel from 4th Marine Division; the Army's 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; the Navy's Pacific Missile Range at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii; the Air Force's Air Mobility Command; and the United States Coast Guard on Kauai to accomplish the five-day training package. The operation was designed to develop unit cohesiveness and to prepare for activation and deployment. These efforts brought contingents of the commands together to host the joint operation. Airborne operations consisted of a low-level static-line insertion and military free falls into two drop zones. The first operation began March 6 in Reno, Nev., as Marines from the 4th Force RECON

Company embarked aboard an Air Mobility Command's C-17 aircraft bound for "DZ Lightning" at Schofield Barracks. During the flight, the Marines conducted an in-flight rigging of both LLSL and MFF parachutists in preparation for airborne insertion into the DZ. On March 7, both Hawaii- and Reno-based Marines joined by SDV-1, and soldiers from 25th ID and SOCPAC, departed for the airborne insert into PMRF on Kauai. The mission consisted of inserting three sticks of LLSL Marines and three sticks of MFF parachutists. The operation involved a wide variety of experience in airborne insertion. Most of the Marines qualified for the coveted Navy/Marine Corps "Gold Wings." Some of the other Marines, however, were vastly more experienced, one being a former U. S. Army "Golden Knight" with nearly 10,000 MFF jumps under his belt. Over the next few days, the joint unit continued to make insertions into PMRF. During the operation, Marines from the 4th Force RECON Company took time out to celebrate a promotion of one of their own. On March 9, at an altitude of 24,999 feet, the aircraft's ramp was lowered for the

promotion ceremony of the company sergeant major. Utilizing a dry erase board, the sergeant major acknowledged his promotion to warrant officer to those present as they sat, awaiting their jump and breathing oxygen from their masks. The MFF jumpers, present for the ceremony, were then supposed to exit the aircraft at approximately 4 kilometers off shore and free fall for up to two minutes. Unfortunately, due to high winds aloft, the MFF jump had to be aborted. The operation concluded with all hands returning to Oahu for one more day of training with insertions into Schofield Barracks and DZ Lightning, utilizing CH-53Ds from MCAF before transitioning to Combatant Diver Operations at Kaneohe Bay. The operation was considered a success due to its complexity and implemented safety measures that enhanced unit cohesiveness and bolstered unit readiness for its pending activation and deployment. 4th Force RECON Company (Minus) was supported by all services during the operation and fostered a sense of professional collaboration with sister service units that will conduct parallel combat operations in the future.



1st Sgt. Timothy C. Blake

**Members of 4th Force Reconnaissance Company, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, float to the ground with members of other services based in Hawaii, as well as Reno, Nev.- based Marines.**





Sgt. Robert M. Storm

A Marine from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, carries a 240G machine gun, which are generally used as a base of fire to cover other Marines while they move closer to an objective.

RANGE, From A-1

this range demonstrates the effect of this tactic,” said Lt. Kyle A. Corcoran, 1st Platoon commander, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. “The enemy is given a choice, stay where they are and die, or move and die.” Combined arms is the employment of direct and indirect fire assets in concert. This means that an enemy location is bombarded with bombs from the air, then mortars and artillery, all the while a Marine rifle company is closing in on the objective. When the Marines get too close to continue with mortars, long-range machine guns open fire to suppress the enemy. The machine guns are used to create a ‘base of fire,’ and while they suppress the enemy, the Marines continue to move closer to the objective. When the Marines are close enough, they employ their M-16s, squad automatic weapons and rockets in an overwhelming volley of fire. By this time, the enemy should be overcome but the Marines are ready if this is not the case. Finally, the Marines will physically clear each trench and even fix bayonets

to their weapons if they are running low on ammo. “We definitely need the experience; this type of range is a lot of work. You have to make sure everyone knows his role in the mission. This type of training is good because it teaches us to react to situations without hesitation,” said Cpl. Matthiev T. Brule, machinegunner, Golf Company, 2/3. “The instructors out here give us good advice at the debriefs and the constructive criticism is helpful.” All bases in the Marine Corps have ranges that allow for the conduct of this type of training. Twentynine Palms is unique in that its ranges allow ‘combined arms,’ most other ranges in the Marine Corps don’t have the space or capabilities to allow the use of so many assets. The size of the range allows an entire company to attack, thereby giving commanders a better overall view of the strengths and weaknesses of their company. “It’s an excellent training range for everyone,” said Corcoran, a Mill Valley, Calif. resident. “The Marines can see what a company with assets can achieve so it provides a great boost to their confidence in their own capabilities.”

Salutes

Returned from deployment

**1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment**  
Thirty-three Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment returned home from Iraq on March 15.

**Gunnery Sgt. Jose C. Romero, 34**  
Internal Control SNCOIC  
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion  
Hometown: Jerseyville, Ill. and Mount Vernon, Ill.  
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/24th MEU/Aug. 27, 2004 through March 8  
Awards: Good Conduct (1), Sea Service Deployment (3), GWOTE (1), GWOTS (1), National Defense (1), Armed Forces Service (1), Armed Forces Expeditionary (1), COA (1), LOA (3), Meritorious Mast (3)

**Lance Cpl. Carlos Suarez, 20**  
Motor Vehicle Operator  
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion  
Hometown: Mercer, N.J.  
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/13th MEU/July 7, 2004 through March 6  
Awards: Sea Service Deployment (1), GWOTS (1), GWOTE (1), National Defense (1)

**Lance Cpl. Carlo A. Arevalo, 19**  
Mail Clerk  
Headquarters Company — FAP to MCBH  
Hometown: Davidson, N.C.  
Deployment location/date returned: IRAQ/March 12  
Awards: Sea Service Deployment (2), National Defense (1), GWOTE (1), GWOTS (1), Certificate of Appreciation (1)

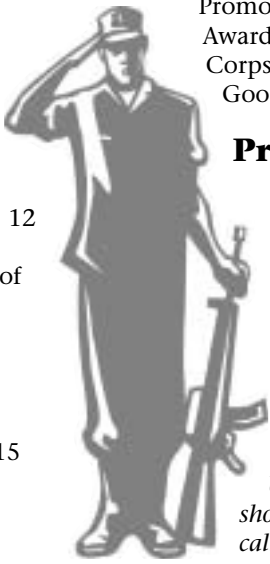
**Capt. John D. Wray, 27**  
Rotary Wing Frag Officer, HMH-362  
Hometown: Rochester, N.Y.  
Deployment location/date returned: Iraq/March 15  
Awards: Sea Service Deployment (2), GWOT (1), National Defense (1)

**Capt. Jonclaud A. Nix, 30**  
Rotary Wing Frag Officer, HMH-362  
Hometown: Fairfax, Va.  
Deployment location/date returned: Iraq/March 15  
Awards: (3) Sea Service Deployment, (1) GWOT, (1) National Defense, (1) MUC

**Staff Sgt. George A. Revenaugh, 34**  
Retail Purchasing  
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion  
Hometown: Jerseyville, Ill. and Mount Vernon, Ill.  
Deployment location/dates: Iraq/24th MEU/Aug. 27, 2004 through March 8  
Awards: Good Conduct (1), Sea Service Deployment (3), GWOTE (1), GWOTS (1), National Defense (1), Armed Forces Service (1), Armed Forces Expeditionary (1), COA (1), LOA (3), Meritorious Mast (3)

Re-enlistment

**Gunnery Sgt. George J. Patton, 46**  
S-3 Current Ops Officer  
Headquarters & Service Company, Headquarters Battalion  
Hometown: Jamestown, Tenn.  
Promotion Date: March 18  
Awards: Defense Meritorious Service (1), Navy & Marine Corps Commendation (1), Army Achievement (1), Good Conduct (6), National Defense Service (2)



Promotions

**Cpl. Moises Uribe, 21**  
Avionics Technician  
Alpha Company, 3rd Radio Battalion  
Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.  
Promotion Date: March 16 (Remedial Promotion)  
Awards: Good Conduct (1), Global War on Terrorism Service (1), National Defense (1), Letter of Appreciation (1)

Units wanting to submit information for “Salutes” should send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.



Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Marines from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, traverse through a ‘clear lane’ created by use of explosives. The ‘breach team’ uses bangalore torpedoes to clear a lane through razor wire and land mines that usually surround an enemy encampment.





Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Because so many connoneers assigned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay are deployed, Marines from Headquarters Company, 1/12, were taught how to perform gun salutes and now fill in for absent connoneers.

1/12, From A-1

standpoint,” said Lance Cpl. Jason N. Prochilo, nuclear biological and chemical defense specialist, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. “Everyone gets along and everyone picked up everything really quick so it has all gone smoothly.”

Although they will not be performing as connoneers much longer, according to Colo’n, they performed their

duties better than could have been expected.

“These Marines are stellar,” he exclaimed. “We never had any problems, they came out and did their job even though they had never done this before. They are naturals, and they caught on automatically. They are just stellar.”

GQ, From A-4

graphs published. Like other combat correspondents, he routinely posts his work on the official Marine Corps Web site. However, Agostini has found that stories he posted from a combat environment received a larger audience than others.

“In Iraq, you’re writing for a global audience, not just a base paper,” said Agostini. “But when [a news story] ends up somewhere like GQ, then it multiplies the audience many more times.”

A portion of that audience included two of “New York’s finest” who know Agostini very well.

“I told everyone in our family about it,” said Daisy Agostini, a police officer with the New York City Police Department and Agostini’s mother. His father, Luis, is also a detective with the NYPD. “I’m very proud of him for being there and doing his job so well,” said Daisy. “It’s incredible that he’s capable of doing such great work.”

“I didn’t know GQ was into covering these types of stories,” added Daisy. “I like the fact that they’re taking notice of what our hardworking Marines are doing over there.”

The Soldier’s Portfolio exhibit is open to the public from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday at 209 Elizabeth Street in Manhattan.

On the move



Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson

Members of K-Bay’s Special Reaction Team, perform close-quarters training known as “movement in a stack,” Saturday. The SRT Marines supplement Military Police Company and are the military’s equivalent to a civilian SWAT team. During the training, Marines fired 9mm pistols, MP5 submachine guns, M4-A1 carbine and shotguns, while on the move.

Park it if you pour.

Even a little alcohol can affect your judgment, balance and coordination. Play it safe. Don’t start drinking until you’ve finished riding.





Sgt. Robert M. Storm

Cpl. Randal E. Gambal, infantryman, from Killeen, Texas, assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, eats a Meal-Ready-to-Eat while receiving a class on urban operations.

REAL, From A-1

weapons. Having veteran Marines who have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan playing civilians allows units to understand their role as peacekeepers instead of conquerors — making them work to understand the people they are trying to help.

“The role-players perform a vital function to the units that train here. They share their experiences learned in country to those of us that are about to go. For the most part they stayed in character throughout the training cycle, some of them eerily so. This was very realistic and goes a long way to showing our Marines what it’s like to be living in a third world country,” said Capt. Scott A Westerfield, intelligence officer, 2/3, who had recently gone through the training.

When the final exercise begins, the Marines play good and bad individuals. The depth of acting includes local village leaders, police officers and priests all being used to test the units in one way or another. They come out to meet with company commanders and discuss problems in their village and topics such as how the Marines need to regard the rights of females; distribution of aid, food and water; and anything else that can pose an issue. The role-players are so in depth that they talk in halting words and use many hand gestures to get their point across, even talking about their make-believe families and

sports like soccer. In return, the Marines treat their guests to their finest food, Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) and tea. All this goes into play so that units understand that they are there to help these people and not “shoot first, ask questions later.”

“There is a fine line on aggression when deployed; you can’t just shoot anyone with a gun. The rules of engagement in foreign countries vary depending on the threat level, but many times you can’t shoot just anyone because they have a weapon,” said Sgt. Loretto J. Matacosta, an infantryman serving as an instructor at MARB. “This type of in-depth role-playing gets the Marines into the mindset of being in country; we give them cultural briefs on Iraq and Afghanistan so that they better understand the people.”



Sgt. Robert M. Storm


Marines from Headquarters Company, 2/3, warm themselves by a fire at night. The Marines are conducting Security and Stabilization Operations at March Air Reserve Base.

“quotable”

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

— Mahatma Gandhi


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You Drive.



You Lose.


In 2003, 40 percent of fatal crashes involved alcohol. For fatal crashes occurring between midnight and 3 a.m., 77 percent involved alcohol.

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



Here’s a Sobering Thought

Even a little alcohol can affect your judgment, balance and coordination. The fact is, almost half of the riders who die in solo motorcycle crashes have been drinking. Play it safe. Don’t start drinking until you’ve finished riding.



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